

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SSM-03 ACDA-12 AID-05
/115 W

-----098068 031054Z /21

R 030318Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6232
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EG IS XF
SUBJECT: PEACE PROCESS COVERAGE LIMITED BUT NEGATIVE
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- MARCH 2

REF: CAIRO 06683

SUMMARY. SADAT REJECTS ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY;
COUNTERS ISRAELI PROPOSALS WITH INSISTENCE ON TOTAL
WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. PRESS

SUGGESTS HE TOLD ATHERTON CARTER MUST STAND FAST IN TALKS WITH BEGIN. BEGIN APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS CRITICIZED IN COMMENTARY AND REACTIONS TO HIS REMARKS ON YOUTH OF OWEN AND KAMEL REFLECT PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

1. PUBLIC FOCUS MARCH 2 WAS LARGELY ON INTERNAL ASPECTS OF SADAT SPEECH (SEPTTEL) LEAVING RELATIVELY LITTLE FRONT PAGE SPACE FOR ATHERTON MISSION. MAIN POINT WAS SADAT'S REJECTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY (HEADLINE), AND REPLY TO ISRAELI PROPOSALS ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WITH INSISTENCE ON TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. ONLY BODIES OF REPORTS NOTED SADAT AGAIN TERMED PALESTINIAN QUESTION "CORE OF CONFLICT".

2. U.S. ROLE. CONVEYING SADAT'S CONCERN THAT U.S. MUST STAND FAST IN FACE OF ISRAELI PRESSURES, AHAM "LEARNED" THAT "SADAT EMPHASIZED (TO ATHERTON) IMPORTANCE OF FORTHCOMING CARTER-BEGIN TALKS FOR U.S. ROLE."

3. PRESS REJECTED IMPATIENTLY BEGIN CALL FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF DIRECT TALKS AND HIS SIMULTANEOUS REFUSAL CONSIDER TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN STATE.

4. COMMENTARY. AHAM EDITORIAL USED OWEN-BEGIN RELATIONSHIP TO ARGUE THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVICE OR OPINIONS FROM ANYBODY. WAXED BITTER OVER BEGIN DISMISSAL OF BOTH OWEN AND KAMEL (IN JERUSALEM TOAST) AS TOO YOUNG TO INTERPRET LESSONS OF HISTORY. NERVOUS GUMHURIYYA EXAMINED ISRAELI TACTICS IN DEALING WITH U.S. IN VIEW FORTHCOMING BEGIN VISIT; CLAIMED BASIC QUESTION IS "HOW USG WILL CONFRONT ISRAELI TACTICS AND ISRAELI DEFIANCE?"

5. COMMENT: AHAM'S SEEMINGLY MISPLACED FOCUS ON BEGIN AND QUESTION OF RELATIVE YOUTH DEMONSTRATES AGAIN THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPEDIMENTS TO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE ARE BOTH REAL AND IMPORTANT. EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES AT JERUSALEM WERE NETTLED BY BEGIN SUGGESTION THAT KAMEL'S YOUTH VITIATES HIS ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND QUESTIONS INVOLVED. THIS IS REAL INSULT IN EGYPTIAN EYES. SADAT, FOR EXAMPLE, MAKES EGYPTIANS AWARE OF HIS ANGER WITH QADHAFI WHEN HE REFERS TO LIBYAN AS "A BOY" OR "A CHILD". POSSIBLY BEGIN INTENDED NO INSULT, BUT CLEARLY BOTH SIDES NEED TO BE REMINDED TO TAKE THE OTHERS SENSIBILITIES INTO ACCOUNT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, PEACE PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO06855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0670
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803111/aaaadqjy.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64bcbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 6683
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3133021
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEACE PROCESS COVERAGE LIMITED BUT NEGATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, EG, IS, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64bcbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014